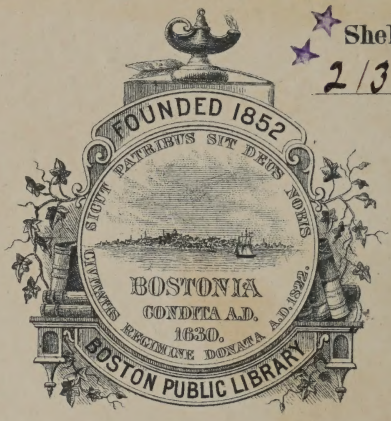

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[DOCUMENT 188 — 1890.]

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MESSAGE OF HIS HONOR THE MAYOR

CONCERNING

THE PROPOSED TABLET TO BE PLACED OVER THE TOMB IN WHICH WERE INTERRED THE VICTIMS OF THE BOSTON MASSACRE OF MARCH 5TH, 1770,

WITH

A REPRODUCTION OF PAUL REVERE'S ENGRAVING.

BOSTON:
ROCKWELL AND CHURCHILL, CITY PRINTERS.
1890.

B. H. 2 copies

The BLOODY MASSACRE perpetrated in King - - Street *BOSTON* on March 5th 1770 by a party of the 29th REGT

Unhappy Boston! see thy Sons deplore.
Thy hallowd Walks besmear'd with guiltless Gore:
While faithless P—n and his savage Bands.
With murd'rous Rancour stretch their bloody Hands.
Like fierce Barbarians grinning o'er their Prey
Approve the Carnage, and enjoy the Day.

If scalding drops from Rage from Anguish Wrung
If speechless Sorrows lab'ring for a Tongue
Or if a weeping World can ought appease
The plaintive Ghosts of Victims such as these:
The Patriot's copious Tears for each are shed.
A glorious Tribute which embalms the Dead

But know Fate summons to that awful Goal
Where JUSTICE strips the Murd'rer of his Soul
Should venal C—ts the scandal of the Land
Snatch the relentless Villain from her Hand.
Keen Execrations on this Plate inscribd.
Shall reach a JUDGE who never can be bribd.

The unhappy Sufferers were Mess^rs Sam^l Gray Sam^l Maverick, Jam^s Caldwell Crispus Attucks & Pat^k Carr
Killed Six wounded two of them (Christ^r Monk & John Clark) *Mortally*

[Document 188 — 1890.]

MESSAGE OF THE MAYOR,

TRANSMITTING

A COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE RECORD COMMISSIONERS

CONCERNING

THE GRAVE OF CRISPUS ATTUCKS AND THE OTHER VICTIMS OF THE BOSTON MASSACRE.

City of Boston,
Office of the Mayor.

The Honorable the City Council: —

Gentlemen, — I transmit herewith an interesting communication from the Chairman of the Record Commissioners upon the grave of Crispus Attucks in the Granary Burying-ground. An order of the City Council, approved on Oct. 28, 1890, provides for the erection of a suitable tablet upon this grave. In view of the Record Commissioner's communication, it appears to be proper that four names should be added to that of Crispus Attucks, and I ask for the passage of an order to that effect. As the communication of the Record Commissioner is of public interest, I suggest that it be printed.

Respectfully,

Thomas N. Hart,
Mayor.

November 14, 1890.

IN BOARD OF ALDERMEN, Nov. 17, 1890.

Ordered to be printed and referred to the Committee on Cemeteries.

EDWIN U. CURTIS,
City Clerk.

Hon. Thomas N. Hart: —

DEAR SIR, — Having been called upon to try to locate the place of the interment of the victims of the Boston Massacre, I beg leave to report as follows: —

Thomas Bridgman, in his book concerning the epitaphs in the Granary Burying-ground, published in 1856, states (p. 170) that the Boston "News Letter" says that four of the victims were buried on March 8, 1770, in one vault in the Middle Burying Ground.[1] He adds (p. 174): —

"In regard to the location of the site where the victims of the Boston Massacre were deposited, the editor has the evidence of the venerable Colonel Joseph May, a warden of King's Chapel, possessing great integrity and a tenacious memory, stated previous to his decease in 1841, and who witnessed their interment, being then ten years of age, and a scholar in the public Latin School. Pointing to the spot which is the site of a tomb once owned by the city, in the rear of the tomb of Deacon Richard Checkley, an apothecary, Colonel May stated that was the place where he saw them interred. A beautiful larch tree flourishes at the side of the city tomb, which is opposite Montgomery place. When, during the mayoralty of Jonathan Chapman [1840–2], an iron fence was erected on the Granary cemetery, in the month of June, 1840, an excavation was made over this spot, for the erection of this city tomb, human bones and a skull with a bullet-hole perforated through it were discovered, which probably were remains of these victims; and we have the evidence of the late Martin Smith, sexton of King's Chapel church, that he assisted in throwing the skull and other bones into the earth near the larch tree."

The four men first interred were Samuel Gray, Crispus Attucks, James Caldwell, and Samuel Maverick. Patrick Carr, an Irishman, lingered till March 14, when he died;

[1] Boston "Evening Post" of March 12, 1770, says: "The bodies were deposited in one vault in the Middle Burying-ground." The Middle or Common Ground is now called the Granary.

W. H. W.

and his remains were buried in the same grave with the others. (Kidder's "History of the Boston Massacre," p. 287.)

The identification of the city tomb abovementioned has been very easy. On an old map of the Granary yard, now preserved in the office of the Board of Health, a tomb is marked just at the place above described. The Checkley tomb is still in sight, with the inscription in good condition; and, at my request, the present superintendent of the burying-ground, Mr. L. W. Ross, has made the slight excavation necessary to decide that the city tomb, or vault, is still to be found, though covered up by soil.

I beg leave, therefore, to report that the spot where the victims of the massacre were buried is located with all reasonable precision, and much more definitely than the graves of most of the persons whose tombstones still remain in the yard.

As pertinent to this subject, I would call attention to a paper printed by Dr. J. H. S. Fogg, in the New England Historical and Genealogical Register for October, 1890. It is the inquest dated March 6, 1770, upon Michael Johnson, "murdered by a party of soldiers in King street, Boston," etc. It is filed "Inquest on Body of Mich'l Johnson, alias Crispus Attucks." This clue may assist in the identification of Attucks, a matter still very far from a satisfactory conclusion.

I do not find that any monument was erected at the time. At the town meeting held March 6th, 1770 (Rec. Com. Reports, vol. 18, p. 14), "that article in the warrant" was read, viz.: "Whether the Town will take any measures that a public Monument may be Erected on the spot where the late Tragical Scene was acted, as a Memento to Posterity of that horred Massacre, and the destructive Consequences of Military Troops being quartered in a well regulated City," and referred to an adjourned meeting. This committee reported (*Ibid.*, p. 48) at the next annual meeting in favor of an annual oration, "and the Committee in order to compleat the Plan of some standing Monument of Military Tyranny, begged to be indulged with further time." The report was accepted, and the monument probably was forgotten. The orations were duly delivered for thirteen years from 1771 to 1782, inclusive, and were all reprinted in one volume in 1785. The orators, in order, were James Lovell, Dr. James Warren, Dr. Benjamin Church, John Hancock, Dr. Warren again, Peter Thatcher, Benjamin Hichborn, Jonathan W. Austin, William Tudor, Jonathan Mason, Jr., Thomas Dawes, Jr., George R. Minot, and Dr. Thomas Welsh.

As I presume that the proposed monument is not meant for Crispus Attucks alone, but also for the others who were killed, I beg leave to remind you, on the authority of the "Massachusetts Spy" of March 7, 1771, that an earlier victim of political strife had also been buried in the same tomb.

This was Christopher Snider (or Seider), a lad eleven or twelve years old, who was killed February 22, 1770, under the following circumstances: The merchants of Boston had generally agreed to cease the sale of English merchandise, but a few Tories persisted. On the date mentioned a crowd collected in front of the store of an unpatriotic dealer. One of his neighbors, Ebenezer Richardson, found fault, and was driven into his house. (Hutchinson: iii., 269.) This man was an officer of the custom house, and had been an informer, and was therefore particularly obnoxious. The crowd threw stones through his windows, and were forcing their way in when he fired and killed this boy, the son of a poor German.

Although the assailants were a mere mob, probably intending nothing more serious than a fright to the obnoxious official, this death was promptly used to arouse and intensify the feelings of the inhabitants against the British government. Hutchinson writes, "a grand funeral was, however, judged very proper for him. Young and old, some of all ranks and orders, attended in a solemn procession from Liberty Tree to the Town House, and then to the Common Burying Ground."

I annex a copy of the account as printed in the "Boston Evening Post" for March 5, 1770. It is perhaps more than a coincidence that the night on which this paper appeared was the one destined to be prominent in our annals as the date of the far more bloody and fateful outbreak on State street.

The citation is as follows: —

[*Boston Evening Post, March 5, 1770.*]

"The Remains of *young Snider*, the unfortunate Boy who was barbarously murdered the 22d of February last, was decently interred the Monday following. His tragical Death and the peculiar Circumstances attending had touched the Breasts of all with the tenderest Sympathy, *a few* only excepted, who have long shown themselves void of the Feelings of Humanity. The little Corps was set down under the Tree of Liberty, from whence the Procession began. About Five Hundred School boys preceded; and a very numerous Train of Citizens followed, in the Estimation of good Judges, at least Two Thousand of all Ranks, amidst a Crowd of Spectators, who discovered in their Countenances the evident marks of true Sorrow.

"The pall was supported by six Youths, chosen by the Parents of the Deceased. Upon the Foot of the Coffin was an Inscription in silvered Letters Latet Anguis in Herba! Intimating that in the gayest

Season of Life and amidst the most flattering Scenes, without the least Apprehension of an evil Hour, we are exposed to the *unseen* Arrows of Death. *The Serpent is lurking in the Grass*, ready to infuse his deadly Poison — upon each Side, HÆRET LATERI LETHALIS ARUNDO! In English, *The fatal Dart is fixed in his Breast!* And on the head was another inscription, INNOCENTIA NUSQUAM TUTA! The original sentiment reversed; and denoting that we are fallen into the most unhappy times when even *Innocence itself is no where safe!*

"Upon this very sorrowful occasion, and during the solemnity, the Sons of Liberty ordered a board to be affixed to Liberty Tree, inscribed with the following quotations from the sacred writings, which perhaps cannot easily be misapplied.

> "'Thou shalt take no Satisfaction for the life of a MURDERER: — He shall surely be put to death.'
> 'Though *hand join in hand*, the wicked shall not pass *unpunished*.'
> 'The Memory of the just is Blessed.'"

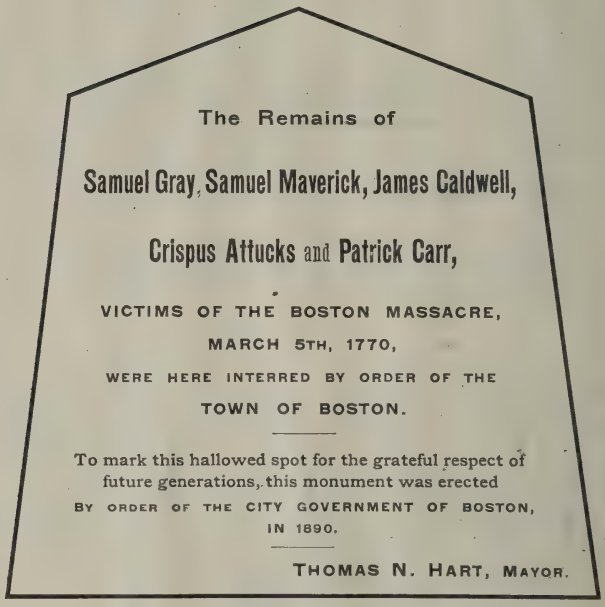
If it should be decided to place a monumental slab, inscribed with the names of the victims of March 5 upon its front, I would suggest that on the reverse of the stone the name of Christopher Snider be also inscribed.

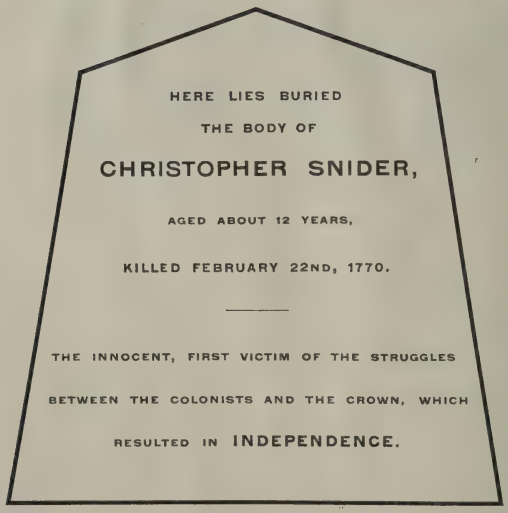
I venture to submit herewith a draft of a proposed inscription which may serve as a basis for a satisfactory one, and remain, with much respect,

Your obedient servant,

WILLIAM H. WHITMORE,
Chairman Record Commissioners.

CITY HALL, Nov. 11, 1890.


The Remains of
Samuel Gray, Samuel Maverick, James Caldwell,
Crispus Attucks and Patrick Carr,
VICTIMS OF THE BOSTON MASSACRE,
MARCH 5TH, 1770,
WERE HERE INTERRED BY ORDER OF THE
TOWN OF BOSTON.
To mark this hallowed spot for the grateful respect of future generations, this monument was erected
BY ORDER OF THE CITY GOVERNMENT OF BOSTON,
IN 1890.
THOMAS N. HART, MAYOR.


HERE LIES BURIED
THE BODY OF
CHRISTOPHER SNIDER,
AGED ABOUT 12 YEARS,
KILLED FEBRUARY 22ND, 1770.
THE INNOCENT, FIRST VICTIM OF THE STRUGGLES
BETWEEN THE COLONISTS AND THE CROWN, WHICH
RESULTED IN INDEPENDENCE.